

Minutes of the Truro Pamet Harbor Commission Meeting

Thursday October 12, 2023, 3:00 PM ET
75 Depot Road, Harbormaster's Office, Truro MA 02666

Attending Members:

Dave Crocker
John Donahue
Scott Donnelly
Eric Moira
Jim Sloman

Participating Guests:

Susan Areson, Truro Town Select Board Member
Tony Jackett, Harbormaster/Shellfish Warden
Jarrod Cabral, Truro DPW Director

Order of Business:

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
TOWN OF TRURO

1. Bringing the Meeting to Order

At the behest of Chairman Tim Silva (who was unable to attend due to previous commitments), Vice-Chair Dave Crocker called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM and declared that a quorum of full-time members was present. The members then warmly welcomed, newly appointed member, Jim Sloman to his first Harbor Commission session.

2. Review and Approval of previous meeting's minutes

The Commission carefully reviewed and discussed the 09/21/2023 meeting minutes. After thoroughly assessing, John proposed a **Motion** to approve them, it was seconded by Scott, unanimously approved by the eligible attending Commission Members and **Granted**.

3. Report from the DPW Director on the North Jetty Project

Truro DPW Director, Jarrod Cabral delivered a very cogent update on the North Jetty Breach Mitigation initiative. Particularly noteworthy items included:

- the Coir Roll project is in the very final stages of approval from both the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife) and the Truro Conservation Committee,
- SUMCO Eco-Contracting (the selected vendor) is expected to begin on-site Corn Hill Beach work in late October and targets completion in an estimated 4 to 6 weeks,
- discussions continue with the Woods Hole Group; DPW is also exploring financing solutions to fund their scope of defining alternative permanent solutions, including extending the granite jetty to elbow northward. This study will likely not be funded and launched until July 2024.

- Jarrod next briefed the Commission on his recent on-sight meeting with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and relayed that they have offered a \$1 million funding package for Pamet Harbor's parking lot water runoff environmental enhancements, ramp repair and other improvements to the launch area. This Federal financing would require a reciprocal \$250k Town match (from any approved budgetary source) to initiate.

4. Update on Dredging

Tony reported that his understanding is that Barnstable County Dredge is still scheduled to commence on 12/17/2023. Members probed this and discovered that no dialogue has taken place between the Town and the County Dredge Authorities since last year. This elevated concerns that, like last year, we will receive nothing but bromides and end up not dredged and at heightened navigability and safety risk.

After extensive discussion, John proposed a **Motion** to request that Truro Select Board Member and PHC liaison, Susan Areson, advocate with her Board colleagues and Town leadership to formally request that we move to the top of the County's schedule and have Basin, Channel and Approach dredging commence in November 2023. This was seconded by Dave, unanimously approved by the attending Commission Members and **Granted**.

After the meeting, John prepared the following draft letter and e-distributed it to Sue with copies to fellow PHC members. We look forward to hearing about the results at the November meeting.

October 12, 2023

Kenneth Cirillo
Barnstable County Dredge Director
3195 Main Street
Barnstable, MA 02630

Dear Ken,

I am writing on behalf of the Truro Select Board to request that you alter the draft 2023-2024 Barnstable County Dredge plan to prioritize Truro's Pamet Harbor and to commence dredging our Approach, Channel and Basin in early November 2023. We are currently, as we were last year, on the schedule to begin December 17, 2023, behind Bourne and Falmouth who still have their permits pending. As you know, we are fully permitted and funded through our ten-year Dredging Plan.

Despite many assurances to the contrary, Pamet Harbor was not dredged last season. This has resulted in significant increases in harbor sediment build ups and led to acute navigability and boater safety risks. The situation at Pamet Harbor is nothing short of dire and significantly threatens the viability of recreational and commercial boating.

Our Harbormaster, Tony Jackett, will have Pamet in a position of 100% readiness for your team to begin dredging on November 1, 2023. Please respond at your earliest convenience and we look forward to seeing your team on our waters next month.

5. Current Waterfront activity, maintenance needs and all other matters

- Tony indicated that his primary focus now is removing vacant rafts/moorings and preparing the harbor for dredging by November 1.
- He advised that there is \$15k available in the Town Budget for Harbor facility maintenance which he tentatively seeks to apply to much needed Harbormaster office re-painting.
- John and Jim relayed that the neighboring Pamet Harbor Yacht Club is very preliminarily assessing any opportunities to enhance Truro community docking and access along their waterfront space. They reiterated these discussions are quite nascent and they will keep the PHC fully apprised and seek collaborative opportunities if/when they progress.
- Tony and John shared the desire to create an appropriated memorial at the Harbor to commemorate John Bloom's military service and significant contributions as an Assistant Harbormaster. The emerging plan would be to install a solid brass memorial plaque at the base of the flagpole. Coordination with the Town, VFW and John's family is underway; we'll report back at the next PHC meeting.

6. Adjournment

After determining that all Commission business had been carried out, Vice-Chairman Crocker proposed a **Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 PM, it was seconded by Scott, unanimously approved by the attending Commission Members and **Granted**.

Tom Sit Char PHC
12/20/23 approved 3-0